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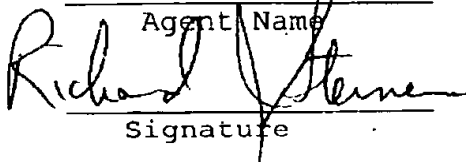
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Applicant : Gary J. Becker  
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Filed : February 23, 2000  
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ENDOPROSTHESIS  
Examiner : Chattopadhyay, Urmi  
Group Art Unit : 3738

I hereby certify that this paper is being  
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August 6, 2004

Date of Signature

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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**ATTENTION: Examiner U. Chattopadhyay****GROUP ART UNIT: 3738****FACSIMILE NO: 703-872-9306****PAGES: 19****RESPONSE**

Sir:

This is in response to the nonfinal Office Action mailed  
February 10, 2004.